

# TOBYHANNA REPORTER

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## News Notes

### AFCEA luncheon March 17

The Pocono Mountains Chapter of the Armed Forces Communications-Electronics Association and the Tobyhanna chapter of the Association of the United States Army are conducting a joint luncheon meeting on March 17.

The guest speaker will be Maj. Gen. Nickolas Justice, Program Executive Officer for Command, Control, Communications-Tactical.

The buffet luncheon begins at 11:30 a.m. at The Landing. Tickets cost \$15 and must be purchased by tomorrow. For ticket information, call Jim Mangino, X57886, or Terry Hora, X57854.

### Organization plans Daffodil Days

The American Cancer Society will host Daffodil Days March 17-20, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Flowers will be available in the main hallway of Building 1A and Café 4 (Building 4, Bay 3). For more information, call the Public Affairs Office, X57308.

### Fishing permits available

Barney's Lake fishing permits, \$5, are available to employees, retirees, and active military and family members.

Permits can be purchased at the One Stop Shop, Mack Field House and Building 1001. A valid Pennsylvania fishing license and trout stamp are required to receive an adult permit.

### Club scholarships available

Tobyhanna Women's Club high school and college scholarship applications are available in the Public Affairs Office or on the intranet under Programs-Services/Tobyhanna Women's Club.

Applications must be postmarked no later than March 28. For more information, call Eileen Rizzo, X57336, Linda Kerr, X59013, or Kathy Winowich, X58866.

### Motorcycle safety course set

The Community Recreation Division is sponsoring a free motorcycle safety course. Classroom sessions will be held

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Jerry Pursel, sheet metal mechanic helper, tests the pull-down kit assembly attached to a CREW antenna system flex-mount device. The pull-down assembly allows the antenna to tilt down prior to coming into contact with a hard object such as an overpass, bridge or low-hanging wires. Pursel works in the Assembly Branch (Photo by Steve Grzedzinski)

## Depot produces 12k antenna flex-mount devices

by Jacqueline Boucher  
Assistant Editor

Dozens of employees at Tobyhanna have teamed up to fabricate, assemble and ship 12,500 retrofitted and new antenna flex-mount devices to Army and Navy units serving in Southwest Asia.

Last year, the depot joined forces with the Product Manager (PM) Counter Radio Controlled Improvised Explosive Device Electronic



CREW antenna systems are mounted on military vehicles using flex-mount devices produced here. (U.S. Army photo)

Warfare (CREW) antenna systems, Fort Monmouth, N.J., to install a pull-down kit assembly on 5,000 devices, and then redesign and fabricate 7,500 new devices.

“Initially, we worked with a vendor to produce the retrofitted devices,” said David Marcus, logistics management specialist, explaining that the vendor provided the flex-mount and employees here produced and attached the pull-down assembly. “For the new design, we integrated the flex-mount and pull-down assembly into one piece that’s manufactured at Tobyhanna.” Marcus is assigned to the Production Management Directorate.

Radio controlled improvised explosive devices (RCIEDs) are a common threat to lives in deployed locations. The CREW antenna system is designed to jam communication signals between the remote control and the receiver used to detonate improvised explosive devices. The pull-down assemblies are used to protect the antennas from being damaged while Soldiers traverse the war zone in military vehicles.

“These are the hottest things going out right now,” said Tim Knabel, mechanical engineer, Production Engineering (PE) Directorate.

See ANTENNA on Page 7

Broken rules often result in  
broken toes

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Around the Depot

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Army announces new benefits  
Web site

Page 7

# Speak up, put an end to inappropriate behaviors

by **Shea Lemuel**  
**CECOM LCMC Equal Employment Opportunity Office**

Is someone treating you in a demeaning manner at work? Do you find the casual comments and repeated conduct of others to be offensive?

These may be behaviors in the workplace that you feel are inappropriate. You want to speak up, but don't know what to say that will stop the behavior and preserve your working relationship. Then, there's the confusion as to what constitutes inappropriate behaviors in the workplace.

Everyone--managers, supervisors, or employees--must take appropriate steps to correct inappropriate workplace behaviors. Staying silent teaches others that the behavior is acceptable.

Inappropriate workplace behaviors are unwelcome or unwanted conduct or actions that cause a negative impact. For instance, unchecked offensive remarks, objects, pictures and language, and physical assaults or threats could undermine employee morale and mission accomplishment.

Some magazines and calendars portray men and women in a demeaning manner. The same can be said for cartoons, posters of individuals wearing little to no clothing and bumper stickers featuring sexually explicit language. Examples of physical assaults or threats may include, but are not limited to, pinching, bumping, grabbing, touching, direct propositions and threats to a person's career, pay or job in exchange for sexual favors. Profanity and telling obscene jokes are also considered offensive conduct or behaviors. Examples of these types of behaviors range from tasteless jokes about government officials, racist labeling, sexual comments, and displaying nooses, swastikas or confederate flags.

Corrective action is the best tool to eliminate inappropriate behaviors in the workplace. The first step is to take a hard look at personal behaviors.

- Does your behavior contribute to work output and mission accomplishment? Negative examples include discussion of personal life or problems.
- Does your behavior offend or hurt other members of the work force? Examples include jokes, posters, cartoons and language which targets or puts down any group (including women).
- Could your behavior be misinterpreted as intentionally harmful or harassing? Examples include continuous sexually suggestive comments, and deliberate or repeated physical contact.
- Would you behave this way in front of the media to be broadcasted on television?

Employees at every level should foster an environment that encourages professionalism and discourages inappropriate behaviors. Supervisors must address inappropriate behaviors they observe or experience immediately when the behavior occurs. If an employee witnesses or finds themselves a participant in an inappropriate conversation or activity, they should redirect the behavior and ask the offending party to stop. Employees should report inappropriate workplace behaviors to their immediate supervisor as soon as possible.

Stop getting mad; get proactive and speak up. You'll be surprised at how taking the small risk of speaking up can reduce your stress level, ensure that you are treated with respect at all times and ultimately improve your working relationships.

*(Editor's Note: Shea Lemuel is a Department of the Army EEO intern who recently completed a 60-day assignment in the Tobyhanna Equal Employment Opportunity Office.)*

# Suicide: Caring for those left behind

**CHAPLAIN'S CORNER**  
by Chaplain (Maj.) Tammie Crews

*(This is the second in a series of articles about suicide awareness and prevention.)*

The training for suicide awareness and prevention that is being conducted throughout our work force emphasizes three areas: education, treatment and support.

Education can raise awareness, build intervention skills and reduce the stigma associated with seeking behavioral healthcare. Treatment provides access to comprehensive care as well as improves life skills and resiliency in general. Support offers grief and bereavement support.

Education is the first step in the renewed emphasis given to suicide awareness and prevention by the Army. Hopefully, these efforts will save lives. However, there may be times that despite our best efforts at education and treatment, a suicide occurs. And there are survivors who are left behind.

Suicide is something that happens not only to the individual, but also to families, communities and work-places -- to all who knew the individual whose life ended in suicide. What of those people left behind? The training is awkwardly silent as too perhaps are our reactions. Death of any type reminds us of our own mortality in ways that may be uncomfortable for many.

How do we support those who have lost a loved one by suicide? Do we stay away because we don't know how to react? Do we allow an awkward silence to remain because we don't know what to say? Do we make nervous small talk to make sure that the subject does not come up? Even worse, do we say something trite that minimalizes or denies what has happened or the grief that others experience?

As a chaplain, I have dealt with the grief of others more since I returned from my deployment in Iraq than ever I did while in a war zone. What I have found is that every individual, every family, every group deals with death, and tragic death such as suicide, in a different way.

Remember, grief is personal. It is not an occasion or platform for us to work through our own history of loss. Never pretend that you understand another person's grief. Never burden those who are grieving with your own stories. Grief can be extremely private even within a group. It can also be expressed very publically.



## OBITUARY

**Lona Vogt** died Feb. 25. She was 53. She is survived by her husband of 32 years, John Vogt.

Vogt was an equal opportunity technician in the Equal Employment Opportunity Office. She began her depot career in November 2007.

A resident of Coolbaugh Township, she was the daughter of Joan (Roedema) Morgan and the late Robert Kenneth Morgan. A native of Easton, she was a member of the La Anna United Methodist Church, Cresco, and enjoyed arts and crafts.

Vogt is also survived by two children, John and Samantha; four sisters, Mary Haschak, Audrey Morgan, Linda Hosterman and Kathy Allen; a brother Ricky Morgan; nieces and nephews; as well as great- nieces and nephews.



Vogt

## TOBYHANNA REPORTER

The Tobyhanna Reporter is an authorized, biweekly publication for members of the Department of Defense. Contents of the Tobyhanna Reporter are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Army. The 6,000 copies are printed by a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. government, under exclusive written contract with Tobyhanna Army Depot.

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### TEAM TOBYHANNA

EXCELLENCE IN ELECTRONICS

# Safety shoes help prevent accidents, foot injuries

by Jennifer Caprioli  
Staff Writer

*These shoes were made for safety, and that’s just what they’ll do. One of these days these shoes are gonna save a toe or two.*

Job safety is the number one issue, no matter what you’re doing, according to Lloyd Mackell, a safety and occupational health specialist in the Industrial Risk Management Directorate’s Safety Division. Mackell and Marilouise Yermal, safety technician, manage the safety shoe program at the depot.

There were eight foot injuries in fiscal year 2008 and four in 2009, Mackell notes, explaining that three of those injuries could have been prevented if the employees were wearing safety shoes.

• Who is required to wear safety shoes?

“Job safety and the correct shoes for the job go hand-in-hand,” Mackell says, adding that an employee’s Job Hazard Analysis (JHA) determines authorization for safety shoes. A JHA defines various hazards an employee is exposed to as part of their work duties, and if safety shoes are required.

People who request safety shoes normally work in industrial areas, such as the sheet metal shops. Mackell says that personnel who constantly travel through those industrial areas are also sometimes required to wear protective footwear.

• What are safety shoes?

Safety shoes are a steel, alloy, carbon fiber or composite toe shoe. A composite toe is made with a hybrid mix of

fiberglass and ceramic that does not conduct heat or cold as fast as steel, explains Matt “The Shoe Guy” Karpiak, who owns the company that provides the depot with safety shoes.

Safety shoes prevent crushing or cutting injuries to the toes and forward area of the foot, and offer the front of the foot protection from impact. “Companies using safety shoes for their employees have fewer foot injuries and accidents,” Karpiak notes.

• How do you obtain safety shoes?

Supervisors are required to submit safety shoe requests for employees online, using the safety database, or by directly contacting Mackell or Yermal, Mackell explained.

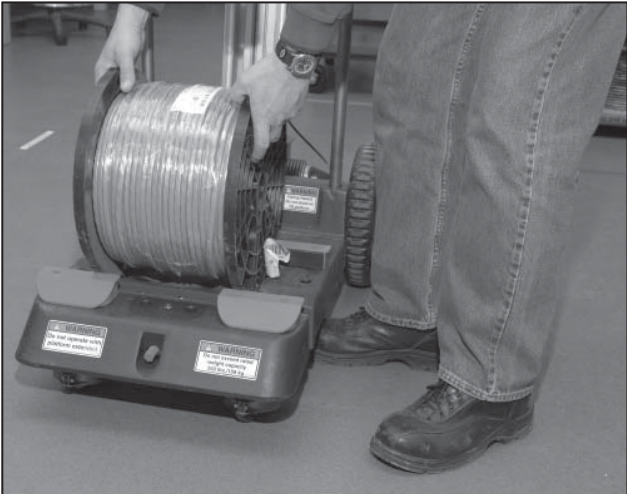
After an employee is given permission to obtain safety shoes, they can go to a Web site specifically designed for depot employees and choose from a number of safety shoes. Mackell and Yermal provide the Web site address to employees once they are authorized for safety shoes.

Employees are allocated up to \$120 for their safety shoes. If an employee chooses a pair of shoes that exceeds the allotted amount, they can supplement the additional cost, Mackell adds.

• When can you get your safety shoes?

Mackell says employees usually receive their shoes within a month of requesting them. The schedule is based on a first come/first served basis, and newly assigned employees can receive shoes when they begin their job.

“Employees are permitted to receive new safety shoes every two years but there are exceptions, which include those who work with chemicals and paint,” Mackell notes,



Safety shoes prevent crushing or cutting injuries to the toes and forward area of the foot. (Photo by Tony Medici)

explaining that chemicals and paint take a toll on the shoes. Police officers also receive a pair of summer and winter boots each year.

The shoe trailer, which is set up outside the north end of the Tactical End Item Repair Facility (TEIRF) building, is available twice a month, alternating between mornings and afternoons. Shoes are provided to about 50 employees during every visit. Karpiak plans to dedicate the current trailer for just the depot’s safety shoe program.

Mackell reminds employees that if they are not wearing the correct footwear they are not only being unsafe, but they are not complying with the rules. “Broken rules can equal broken toes,” he adds.

For details call Mackell, X57864, or Yermal, X57020.

# Army targets individual Soldier for radio communications

by Jason Bock  
CECOM Life Cycle Management Command

The ability to communicate; through voice, digital message or simply by position, is arguably, the most critical capability for the men and women of today’s Army.

From the highest level down, communications is an asset that no Soldier should be without.

With this concept in mind, the Joint Program Executive Office Joint Tactical Radio Systems has developed the Rifleman Radio, as part of an effort to bring secure, networking capabilities to a level of Soldier in the Army that previously had no means of intra-squad communication.

During a series of exercises at Fort Bliss, El Paso, Texas, in late November of 2008, representatives from JTRS and the 1st Armored Division, incorporated the Rifleman Radio’s capabilities into their training situations to evaluate the effectiveness of the system within its target Soldier audience.

“The rifleman radio will be the first time that we bring a networking radio into the force and right down to the individual rifleman,” said Col. Daniel P. Hughes the program manager for JTRS Ground Domain. “It provides a capability for us to bring a secure radio to the individual rifleman, so that he can now speak to his leadership and send his location into the network.”

The radio represents an enormous increase in capability, technology and



The Rifleman Radio provides a greater range and increased effectiveness for secure one-on-one communication by Soldiers, while conserving power and maintaining signal strength. (U.S. Army Photo)

security for the Soldiers in forward operations who are currently not issued radios, and instead use hand signals to pass information.

“Right now, the individual Soldiers and their squad leaders are the biggest have-nots within the communications arena,” said Maj. Tracy Mann, of the TRADOC Capability Manager for Tactical Radios. “This capability will allow squad leaders and team leaders to talk directly to their subordinates, and their subordinate leaders to be able to command and control their individual squad and platoon battle troops.”

Mann, the TCM-TR lead for Handheld, Manpack, Small Form Fit radios (HMS),

was a first-hand observer of the training exercises at Fort Bliss that incorporated the Rifleman Radio.

“We’re revalidating those lessons learned from Operation Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom,” Mann said. “An intra-squad communications capability is required. It’s needed. It helps mission effectiveness.

“We just need to continue to improve and refine this radio so we can get the best possible capability to the individual Soldier.”

By employing a National Security Agency Type 2 certification, the Rifleman Radio can offer controlled but unclassified communications a Soldier can employ without requiring security clearances. This

solves one radio problem for infantry units, which are comprised mostly of troops who are not cleared. The NSA Type 2 encryption bars classified information from being passed during transmissions and makes secure information more difficult for enemies to intercept. With these factors in place, the Rifleman Radio will not only deliver 10 to 100 times the bandwidth to the tactical edge, but at the same time, make sharing information more secure for the Soldier.

In addition to voice communication, the Rifleman radio also supplies a commander with a GPS picture of his squad members through a Position Location Information, or PLI, display. At Fort Bliss, the 1st Armored Division used the GPS features of the Rifleman Radio in a shoot-house situation. Squad leaders positioned outside of a darkened room were able to locate and identify the positions of each member of their team through the PLI.

“I worked with another system in the past. It was high-speed stuff, but the GPS system went out once my guys entered the building,” said 2nd Lt. Jason Alston, 1st Armored Division, 5th Brigade, 2nd Combined Arms Battalion. “(With the Rifleman Radio’s PLI display) you still can see locations when your guys enter the building. You don’t have to worry about the GPS icon going off.”

“The best thing about the whole system and the PLI is you actually zoom in on the battlefield and see your guys’ exact

See RADIO on Page 6



IMCOM Northeast Region leaders visit Tobyhanna

Clockwise, Command Sgt. Maj. Daniel Chavez (left) of Installation Management Command (IMCOM) Northeast Region pauses to talk with Francis Lo Dolce, electronics worker, during a visit to the depot on March 4. Lo Dolce works in the Communications Systems Directorate's Single Channel Ground and Airborne Radio System (SINCGARS) Branch. Russell Hall (right), director of IMCOM, looks through a tube-launched optically-tracked wire-guided (TOW) missile launcher. Employees in the Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Directorate's Man Portables Branch repair the

missile launcher, which consists of a thermal night sight on top and a day sight on the bottom. Steve Boyce (left), electronics mechanic, briefs Hall and Chavez on the Long Range Advanced Scout Surveillance System (LRAS3) during a tour through the Man Portables Branch. The LRAS3 is used to detect and locate targets at extended ranges. The group also toured depot grounds, including test ranges, housing, barracks, new guest suites, Child Development Center, post exchange and commissary. (Photos by Steve Grzeddzinski)

Teamwork, technology helps personnel locate, track assets on the depot

by Jennifer Caprioli  
Staff Writer

A lost communications-electronics system has helped find a better way to project cost.

Productivity Improvement and Innovation and Production Management personnel have combined the Master Production Scheduling project and Radio Frequency Identification technology to help locate and track assets here.

“The original plan was to initiate MPS, beginning with a pilot area, and then implement the program in the mission areas,” notes Dan Petty, logistics program specialist in the Production Management Directorate’s Logistics Modernization Program (LMP)/Master Production Scheduling (MPS) Branch. Production Management personnel were piloting MPS when a communications-electronics system was misplaced. Someone suggested they could avoid similar situations if they use RFID to track other large systems.

Production Management personnel began implementing the MPS program in January 2008. The program, which schedules work and parts, is a module within the Logistics Modernization Program. LMP is an enterprise resource planning system that focuses on scheduling work and preventative maintenance for equipment and long-term planning.

The use of Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology was implemented in 2004 as a means of tracking assets through the maintenance and overhaul processes, explains

Ronald Rains, management analyst in the Productivity Improvement and Innovation (PII) Directorate’s Research and Analysis Division.

RFID tags are tracked and viewed by using a computer program that houses a map of the depot and contains information on each tracked asset.

Armed with the MPS program, RFID technology and the computer program, Petty and Rains went to work training and mentoring supervisors, work leaders, as well as production controllers and planners.

Since the joint effort began, personnel from PII and Production Management have implemented the technology and program to areas in the Communications Systems and Command, Control and Computers/Avionics directorates; they plan to tackle areas in the Systems Integration and Support Directorate next.

“When personnel in the Production Management Directorate meet with supervisors and work leaders they look at the amount of workload and Repair Cycle Times to determine how many RFID tags they will need and who they need to train,” Petty explains. They also determine the route of the work flow to identify where RFID coverage is needed.

Rains explains that the tags constantly track asset movement about every four minutes. “We know where the asset is [because there is a tag on it], how long it has been in a location and when it will arrive at the next location,” he notes. “All of that information is stored in the database.”

This information can be viewed on an electronic map of the depot or in report form, which allows personnel to track an asset and determine how long it’s been in an area.

“Information can be manually taken out of the database and put into LMP to update the routes so you know exactly how long it should be taking for work to be completed, and it helps with scheduling work,” Petty explains. Rains adds that they are taking initiatives to integrate relevant data from the RFID database with LMP.

Personnel are currently using RFID to track large assets such as shelters, humvees and Secure Mobile Anti-Jam Reliable Tactical Terminals (SMART-T). Petty says they are looking into tracking smaller items by placing one tag on a pallet containing the same assets, so personnel can track items through their normal process.

The joint effort will improve the work flow by providing personnel with the tools to update asset routes, Petty notes. Supervisors and work leaders are able to locate misplaced items more easily because the database’s depot map allows them to visually locate the asset, eliminating a manual search process.

“The use of RFID allows shops to know where an asset is, to ensure the schedule is met,” Mike McCawley, chief of the Communication Systems Directorate’s Voice Communications Division.

The ultimate goal of the joint effort is to identify where and why items that exceed expected dwell times are held up during the production process, says Bob Haas, noting

that this will improve the flow of products through the production process. Haas is the chief of the PII Directorate’s Research and Analysis Division.

Petty says this “hand-in-hand” process is also a plan for parts to get to a location just as technicians need them. “We’re not quite there, but we’re working toward that and LMP is going to help us get there.”



Joseph Belinka, electronics worker in the ISR Directorate, places a waveguide in an RFID tracked box. (Photo by Steve Grzeddzinski)

EXCELLENCE IN ELECTRONICS

AROUND 'THE DEPOT'



Thomas Kleeman, electronics mechanic, aligns and tests a circuit card used in the AN/TRC-170 system's receive modem.



Left, Christian Cognigni, branch chief, checks the progress on a suite of line replaceable units. Above, Catherine Marino, electronics mechanic, reassembles a converter after mechanical overhaul.

Photos  
by  
Steve  
Grzezdinski



John Zielinski, electronics mechanic, tests and aligns a transmit modem.

Wideband Components Branch  
Communications Systems Directorate

The branch's 16 employees overhaul mechanical and electrical components on the AN/TRC-170 Troposcatter Radio Terminal Set subassemblies. Branch personnel use oscilloscopes, spectrum analyzers and signal generators to troubleshoot systems.



Joseph Reviello, electronics mechanic, checks the wiring on the front panel of a high-power amplifier during the mechanical overhaul process.



William Chuma, electronics mechanic, performs electrical testing and alignment of the AN/TRC-170 system's transit modem.

Equipment Specs

The TRC-170 is a wideband communications system that links voice and data by providing transmission and reception of radio frequency signals. The system reflects signals off land objects or layers of the atmosphere and is capable of sending and receiving multiplex digital analog voice, digital data or a combination of both.



## COMMUNITY BULLETIN

Editor’s Note: The Community Bulletin provides an avenue for depot and tenant employees to advertise van or car pools, and for-sale items. Money making items such as rentals and personal business will not be accepted.

Information must be submitted via e-mail to Jacqueline.Boucher@us.army.mil, or written items can be mailed to the Public Affairs Office, mail stop 5076.

Submissions must include a name and telephone extension. Only home phone numbers will be published in the Trading Post section.

Ads will be published in four consecutive newspapers. It is the customer’s responsibility to update or renew items listed in the Community Bulletin.

For information, call Jacqueline Boucher, X58073.



### VAN/CAR POOLS

- **Nanticoke:** 4 openings, van, 5/4/9, both Fridays, nonsmoking, possible house pickup, contact Brad Post, X57930 or bradley.post@us.army.mil.
- **West Pittston:** 1 opening in March, van, 15 passengers, 7 a.m.-3:30 p.m., “A” placard, pickup points West Pittston, Pittston Plaza, Avoca, A&A Auto in Moosic, call John Algar, X57230. There will be another opening in May.
- **Lehigh Valley:** 2 openings, van, 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m., pickup points are the Home Depot in Whitehall and the park and ride on Route 33, contact Phu Nguyen, X58875 or phu.nguyen@us.army.mil.
- **Honesdale, Lake Ariel:** 2 openings, van, 5/4/9, last Friday RDO, call Jim LoPresti, X56630.
- **Nanticoke, Sugar Notch:** 1 opening, van, “A” placard, 7 a.m.-3:30 p.m., pickup points are the Nanticoke National Guard Armory and Sugar Notch park and ride, call Ed Tomko, X59682.
- **Gibson:** 1 opening, van, 5/4/9, both Fridays, will stop at exits along routes 81 South and 380 South originating in Gibson, call Gerry Keene, X59069.
- **Montdale, Scott Twp, Eynon, Peckville, Jessup:** 1 opening, van, 7 passengers, “A” placard, 5/4/9, both Fridays, call Michele Dooley, X57565.
- **White Haven:** 1 opening, van, 7 passengers, 5/4/9, nonsmoking, call David Swankosky, X59467.
- **Dunmore:** 1 opening, 5/4/9, both Fridays, nonsmoking, pick up point at Holiday Inn, possible house pick up, “A” placard, call Tim Cruzer, X59050.



### TRADING POST

- **Clothing:** men’s insulated work suit, 2XXL, regular, black, never worn, \$45, call (256) 714-4344.
- **Exercise equipment:** Weslo Model 710 elliptical exerciser, less than 1 year old, excellent conditions, several programs, 10 power levels, heart monitor, magazine rack, paid \$300, asking \$125, call 842-9115 after 5 p.m.
- **Exercise equipment:** Bowflex Xtreme SE with 210 lb power rods, lat/ab/leg attachment included, workout planner DVD, 1 year old, mint condition, \$1,300, call 839-1834.
- **Misc. items:** 10-piece drum kit, \$200, dresser, \$50, and metal desk, \$50, call Derek, 215-4011 or 610-577-5806.

## ASK-TOBY

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## NEW SUPERVISORS

**Paul Frantz** is chief of the Mission Software Branch, Production Engineering Directorate.

He supervises 29 people who perform computer software installation and maintenance for all mission-related automated systems. Personnel also maintain and enhance the depot’s Computer Aided Engineering system. Employees are currently modernizing the technical library software.



Frantz

Prior to his current position, Frantz was an electronics engineer in the Test Program Development Branch. He began his career at Tobyhanna in 1984.

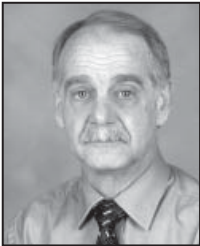
Frantz is a 1979 graduate of the Dallas Area High School. In 1983, he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in electrical engineering with a minor in computer science from Wilkes College.

He and his wife, Janet, reside in Blakeslee. They are the parents of Jonathan, 22, Megan, 20 and Christine, 18.

Frantz is a member of the Faith Lutheran Church and Venture Crew 94, which is the coed program of the Boy Scouts. His hobbies include skiing, hiking, camping, canoeing and home improvement.

**Victor Narsavage** is chief of the Tactical Communications Facilities Branch, Systems Integration and Support Directorate.

He supervises 33 people who fabricate cables and cable



Narsavage

harnesses for the Blue Force Tracking (BFT), SINCGARS (Single Channel Ground and Airborne Radio System) and CROWS II (Common Remotely Operated Weapon Station) systems. Personnel also fabricate single and double switch boxes for BFT.

Prior to his current position, Narsavage was an electronics mechanic leader in the same directorate. He began his career at Tobyhanna in 1985.

Narsavage served four years in the Navy performing photographic intelligence duties such as aerial and radar photography analysis, planning and plotting of aircraft combat flight routes while in Vietnam aboard the aircraft carrier USS America.

His awards and decorations include the National Defense Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, Navy Commendation Medal, a sustained superior performance award and On-The-Spot Performance Award.

Narsavage is a 1969 graduate of Pittston Area High School.

He and his wife, Marie, reside in Duryea. They are the parents of Stephanie, 21, Jennifer, 20, Victor Jason, 19, Tiffany and Christine, 17, and grandparents to Victor Alexander, 6 months.

His hobbies include hunting and fishing.

### RADIO from Page 3

locations,” Hughes said, “which is definitely a plus for command and control. I can be somewhere else and see my assault element.”

The Rifleman Radio is being developed as a stand alone system, but will integrate into the Ground Soldier System Ensemble platform providing mission planning, execution, and situational awareness capabilities to squad team leaders and above. The Rifleman Radio will also be interoperable with the other suite of JTRS products being developed, to provide the needed connectivity to higher echelon command elements.

Because the Rifleman Radio is a networking radio, it can provide a greater range and increased effectiveness for secure one-on-one communication, while conserving power and maintaining signal strength. As long as a user can touch someone in the network, it’s not necessary to send a radio signal two or three kilometers, to establish communication.

This “chain-like” assistance when it comes to communicating across great distances can contribute greatly to the conservation of battery life. Non-networking or line-of-site radios need to increase power output when the distance between direct points of contact increases; with the Rifleman Radio, the space between two operators can increase as long as there are individuals within the network, along the path, that can relay the radio signal ahead.

“If I have enough people along

the path, (the signal) will just hop from radio to radio and you can fulfill that network. It represents a quantum change from what we have now,” Hughes said. “If you can touch anyone else in that network you can talk around and defeat the physics that you’re dealing with.”

The physical challenges that are faced by many point-to-point radio connections include man-made structures, such as solid walls, or topographic obstacles like mountains, which can block a radio signal if operators attempt to communicate through these structures. With a networking radio, as long as the signal from the operator’s radio can hit one individual along the network chain, his communication can jump to its destination.

Hughes is also confident that the program’s target Soldier audience will have little-to-no difficulty adjusting to the addition of a radio to their suite of equipment. The Rifleman Radio is interoperable, software programmable and upgradable and employs the Soldier Radio Waveform. It is ruggedized and light, includes a convenient push-to-talk, and a hands-free headset.

“The great part about the young Soldier we’re getting today is that technology is not new to them,” Hughes said. “They grow up with X-Box, iPods and cell phones. So this shouldn’t be a quantum change. This should be something they expect us to do.”

In simple terms, the Rifleman

Radio is a system the Soldier can put on and turn on. The goal is a radio that is extremely easy to operate, but flexible enough to perform the mission.

“I actually like the fact that it’s real simple,” Alston said. “Anybody can catch on to it within a couple of minutes. We even had some of the guys who just graduated [Warrior Leader Course] yesterday and their first time touching a radio was today, and we didn’t even have to explain it to them.”

“I was very impressed with the squad leaders, team leaders and individual Soldiers,” Mann said after observing several training exercises at Fort Bliss.

“In every situation that we have put them in, they have used good old Soldier ingenuity to figure out how to implement this radio and improve their mission effectiveness.”

By bringing individual communication capabilities to the Soldier in a user-friendly package, on a secure network, the Rifleman Radio should play a key role in reducing fratricide, enhancing the ability of the Soldier to conduct operations and providing a capability that does not exist in theater today.

JPEO JTRS is trusting in the concept that bringing the Soldier at every level into the communications network will allow the Soldier in theater to get more information to the right place at the right time; and thus help enable commanders to make effective decisions.

ANTENNA from Page 1

“There’s a need for these devices overseas, so we’re shipping them as fast as we can.” Each flex mount costs less than \$500 to manufacture.

Before work on the flex mounts began, PM CREW representatives approached the depot with an idea to develop an internal device that Soldiers could use to pull down the antenna. The pull-down assembly allows the antenna to tilt down prior to coming into contact with a hard object such as an overpass, bridge or low-hanging wires

“They came to us with their design,” Knabel said. “The flex mount was an existing piece of equipment, but they wanted to be able to manually pull down the antenna from inside the vehicle. We worked with them to get the best solution and that’s where the retrofit kit idea came from.”

Today the depot fabricates all the parts from steel except the wire rope, struts and pulleys, which are purchased.

Paul Keller spends much of his time assembling the flex-mount devices that support the CREW system antennas.

“Overall it’s been a very rewarding job experience. Knowing the troops in the field depend on these units for their survival,” he said. Keller is a sheet metal worker.

The large antennas that are part of the CREW system are mounted to an antenna flex mount device on an Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) or other military vehicle. While inside the vehicle, a driver or passenger can lower the antenna by pulling a handle which is connected to a 9-foot-long wire rope (attached to each assembly).

“This has been a great project,” said Tom Nawrocki, mechanical engineering technician, PE Directorate. “Everyone provided input and we got to see it go through testing.”

Depot officials agree the job was a team effort. Shops including sheet metal fabrication, welding, plating, painting, fabric applications, and sheet metal assembly played a vital role in the process.

Workers in the Assembly Branch remarked that the volume of work, at times, was overwhelming; however, knowing that warfighters would be using the device provided the incentive they needed to keep going until the job was finished.

The Systems Integration and Support Directorate’s Sheet

Metal Fabrication Branch processed more than 66 tons of 3/16-inch steel sheeting.

“This job has a lot of steel components that are processed differently than the typical parts made from aluminum,” Robert Bruce said, adding that everyone worked hard to keep the project on schedule. Bruce is a sheet metal worker.

“Working as a team, with clearly defined goals, all piece parts were completed,” said Robert Aten, branch chief, adding that all branch employees “contributed equally to this effort.”

It takes only a few minutes to integrate a kit to a flex mount. At that rate, it’s important to have enough people and parts on hand to finish the job.

“Right now there about six people (in sheet metal assembly)

working on the flex-mount project,” said Jack Andrejko, mechanical engineering technician. “We’ve been able to keep a steady flow of workers on the project; however, they go so fast that it’s hard to keep the parts stocked.”

Welding workers even came up with a fixture to speed up their process of welding the top of the assembly, according to Nawrocki.

In less than a year, Tobyhanna made subtle design changes to improve the CREW antenna system, according to Knabel, who noted that project team worked with the customer to increase the capabilities of the flex mount device.

“Personally, I think the design is 10 times better than the original retrofit idea,” said Nawrocki. “Fewer parts and less things to go wrong.”



Employees assemble, fabricate and ship thousands of CREW antenna system flex-mount devices for use in Southwest Asia. (Photo by Steve Grzezdziński)

Army launches new ‘My Army Benefits’ site

WASHINGTON —The Army’s G-1 staff launched a redesigned Web site last week that consolidates all Army benefits information at one location and includes calculators that Soldiers can use.

The “http://MyArmyBenefits.us.army.mil” site has calculators that allow Soldiers to see how much money they can expect to receive upon retirement or how much their family would receive if the unthinkable happens.

“Soldiers owe it to their family to let them know they will be taken care of if something happens,” said Lt. Col. Jay Carlson of G-1, the program manager for the site.

The site also lists information on 150 different benefits ranging from child care to education assistance. Fact sheets are provided on a variety of family services, recreation programs, Space-A travel, Army Emergency Relief, health care, spouse employment assistance and many other programs.

In addition, there are 54 state and territory fact sheets that break out different benefits for Soldiers who live in each state.

“The state /territory benefits page is helpful because all I had to do was click on my state on the map and I could see all the benefits my state offered,” said Staff Sgt. Michael O’Brien. “Also it lets you estimate your retirement pay which is a cool thing to know.”

The retirement calculator allows Soldiers to figure out what their benefits will be under the three different retirement systems: High Three, Final Pay and REDUX.

Benefit resource locators are part of the site, along with special Wounded Warrior and Casualty modules.

The Survivor Planning Calculator provides a personal report projecting lifetime Social Security and survivor’s benefits. The report also factors in the Thrift Savings Plan, Servicemembers Group Life Insurance, or SGLI lump-sum payments and other benefits.

The benefits calculator is a good vehicle to assist Soldiers and spouses as they plan for the future, giving them peace of mind, Carlson said.

Personal data for the calculators is drawn from the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System known as DEERS.

The calculators, including one for disability benefits, require Soldiers to log in using their Army Knowledge Online password.

The only weakness of the site, according to one of its designers, is that the calculators currently are available only to active-duty Soldiers. However, Carlson said plans are underway to develop benefits calculators for National Guard and Reserve Soldiers as well.

Other sections of the site already address reserve-component Soldiers. One is the Deployment Planning Toolkit. This section provides information on mobilization and deployment support, family assistance, pay and allowances, and programs such as the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act.

Sgt. 1st Class Pete Mayes said he was impressed with the site.

“I’m scheduled to deploy downrange sometime this year,” Mayes said, “and this would be a great benefit to my wife and daughter.”

(Information from a G-1 news release contributed to this article.)

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in the chapel from 6 to 8:45 p.m. April 30 and May 7. The riding portion of the training will be conducted from 8 a.m.-5:30 p.m. May 2 and 9.

The 4-session course must be completed prior to bringing a motorcycle on post. Individuals must provide a valid motorcycle license or permit and insurance card, and wear a Department of Transportation-approved helmet and proper clothing. The deadline to register is April 20.

For more information, call the Mack Fitness Center, X58529.

CYSS offers wellness programs

The Child, Youth and School Services (CYSS) is offering a Community Education and Wellness program.

Adult activities include volleyball on Thursdays from 6:15 to 7:30 p.m. until May, and Fit and Functional on Mondays and Wednesdays from 4:45 to 5:45 p.m., March 23-May 27.

Programs for children include Babysitter Training from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. April 10 and 13, and Baby Sign from 4:45 to 5:45 p.m. Tuesdays, beginning March 24.

A list of classes, descriptions, prices and registration dates are available at [www.tobyhanna.army.mil/community/CYS.html](http://www.tobyhanna.army.mil/community/CYS.html). For more information, call Anne Wombacker, CYSS coordinator, X56148.

CWF plans bus trips

CWF is planning an “on your own” and international car show bus trip to New York City on April 18. Cost is \$20. The buses will depart the depot parking lot at 7:30 a.m. and depart the city at 6 p.m.

For details on either trip, call X58851.

# FREEZE FRAME

Photographer revels in thrill of sport one image at a time



James Stewart, left, and Brian Wilcox, motocross photographer, hold a photograph Wilcox took of Stewart. Vurbmoto named it one of the top 25 photos of 2008.

BY JENNIFER CAPRIOLI  
STAFF WRITER



## BIKES

...camera... action!

Those are the only three things on Brian Wilcox's mind when he gears-up for a dirt flying, height defying motocross photo shoot.

Bored with what he refers to as "normal" sports

like baseball, Wilcox, an electronics mechanic in the Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Directorate, began searching for something exciting, dangerous and totally different. He found his calling somewhere around age 13, claiming, "I was hooked," after watching his first motocross race on television. Motocross is a form of motorcycle racing held on enclosed off-road courses.

He began to ride and compete in the sport, but as fate would have it, other things became more important as he got older and he decided to stop racing motorcycles.

"I wanted to stay in the sport somehow and realized that if I had a camera I was still part of the action," he explains, adding that the first time he ever picked up a camera was in 2006.

With a little help from the right people, a passion for dirt in his face, and an eagerness to learn all he could about photography, Wilcox became an amateur photographer, spending every weekend snapping photos with his Nikon D50.

He believes his background in electronics helped him learn how to use the manual camera and prior knowledge of electronics assisted when it came to fixing and working with the "little parts of a camera."

He says the most challenging aspect of the job is

dealing with the weather and lighting. "Since we shoot outdoors we have to work with what we're given," he explains. "You have to capture that rider in the moment you want and you only have a hundredth of a second to get the photo you want."

The motocross season runs from May to September. During the season he travels every weekend to different places along the east coast. He's captured different events such as the Mini Olympics in Florida and the Amateur National Motocross Championship races in Tennessee. Wilcox also submits photos and articles to online magazines, such as Vurbmoto.

His camera is dirty and abused from large amounts of roost (the dirt that flies off of the rear tire) by the end of the race, but he says that's one of the best aspects of the high energy photography.

"There are 40 bikes lined-up at the gate when a race starts. Once the gate is dropped, those bikes take off and they're all going around a turn that is meant for about five bikes," he says, with spirit and emotion. "You're right there trying to capture that action and it's pretty scary." He notes that a lot of photographers are pelted by rocks but are willing to take a hit for "that shot."

Wilcox says his most memorable experience can be found in a photo of James Stewart, a motocross rider and second rider to go undefeated in a season. "I was told it was an epic shot," he notes. Someone in the industry saw the photo and hung it in the media tent at the next race.

"James was impressed with the photo and the editor of [motocross magazine] RacerX liked it. I guess I was just in the right place at the right time, and saw the right shot." The photo was published as part of a two-page spread in the December issue of the magazine and was recognized

by Vurbmoto as one of the top 25 photos of 2008.

His branch supervisor, Jeff O'Neill, describes Wilcox as someone who is very detail-oriented and immerses himself in his work. "He's enthusiastic about his work, regularly taking initiatives to improve processes and provide a better quality product," O'Neill notes. "He's always paying attention to detail."

Wilcox jokes that since his coworkers found out about his photography skills he has been deemed the resident photographer in the Miniature Multiple Threat Emitter System (Mini MUTES) Branch. One aspect of his job is the tear down and build up of the Mini MUTES system and he says they like to take photos before and after the overhaul of each system.

The amateur motocross photojournalist says he isn't interested in any other type of photography though and claims that his favorite part is the intensity.

"Once you're out on the track and inches away from a guy going 60 miles per hour, dirt flying in the air, you experience a huge rush." He says his main drive behind his photography is to encourage people to attend races.

"If you saw what these kids go through, such as the hard training, injuries that they ride with and heartaches, you'd see the sport is much more physical than other mainstream sports." He believes this is a good way for the sport to get more exposure.

Wilcox says that by viewing motocross through a camera, he observes more than the average fan.

"I see the lowest points of the riders and I have the chance to talk to them about stuff other than motocross. You get to see a different side of the riders."

He sees the high jumps they make, the low falls they take and all the dirt in between. He believes those are the perfect poses, for the perfect photos.